



Report on Burwell Museum's Albert Rank Project

Aims:

Enable three young volunteers to work with a fascinating museum collection.
Learn new skills for their future careers and pass on knowledge to other volunteers
Improve visitor access to one of the museum's hidden-treasures

Objectives:

Re-display the Albert Rank Collection in wall-hanging box frames in one of the museum's most popular galleries.
Move and document the collection on MODES.
Produce laminated hand-outs with detail about artefacts.

Schedule:

January – April 2015

Volunteers recruited to work on project

Suzy Rickard
George Sims
Charley Brand

Staff involved in project

Melanie Worgan, Audiences Officer, 'Fresh Wind in Our Sails' project
Ben Crisp, Museum Assistant, 'Fresh Wind in Our Sails' project

Project description

This project engaged **3 young adults looking for voluntary museum work experience** for a period of 3 months. The team learnt the following museum skills:

Cataloguing and documenting collections using MODES
Research skills
Object packing and handling
Object mounting and labelling
Interpretation skills

They also developed the following personal skills:

Planning
Communication
Time keeping
Reliability and punctuality
Working with a wide range of people

The project has been running on a few museum open days and the volunteers have engaged with visitors and other volunteers to explain their work.

The new displays have encouraged a lot of discussion about metal detecting in the area and new school groups that have visited have used the collection as evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon burials in the area.

These activities have reached new audiences, thereby helping the museum to become more resilient and sustainable for the future by raising its profile.

What participants say:

“I've learnt a lot about archaeology collections and museums. I like looking at displays like this and it's given me an opportunity to better appreciate the objects. It's given me the confidence to try more roles in the museum and apply for other museum posts.”

(Suzy Rickard)

“The best thing about the project has been working closely with objects that very few people actually noticed before. Now people come in to see what we're doing and ask about the objects. I can't wait to see the frames on the wall.”

(Ben Crisp)

What the museum trustees say:

“The Albert Rank collection is an important part of our museum and a fascinating view of local history through archaeological finds. The trustees are thrilled that these young volunteers have worked hard to improve the display and we hope they've enjoyed the project enough to stay on with us! ”

(John Waller, Trustee)



George and Suzy show Ben the layout they've planned.



Looking through notes made by collections volunteers.



Examining how Albert Rank displayed his finds (or, studying what to do and not do when mounting and labelling objects).



Charley and Suzy work on some new accessions.

The first finished display!



Please submit the final claim at any time before 1 May as

explained in the guidance item 6.2, with an invoice quoting purchase order number 571051 and the actual expenditure, together with supporting evidence of payment.

